

Statewide Drinking Water Advisory Council

11/10/2021

Meeting Minutes

Attending in-person: Keith McCormack, Dan Coss, Wayne Jernberg, Charlotte Jameson (attending remotely via MCL 15.263a(8)), Susan Manente, Jennifer Morse

Attending remotely (non-voting): Sheryl Thompson

Güd Marketing Staff in attendance: Zack Kreiger, Lauren Abbott, Chelsea Maupin

Meeting started: 9:42 AM

- 1) Approval of Agenda (McCormack):
 - a. MOTION: Jernberg moved, supported by Coss, to approved the agenda.
 - b. VOTE: Motion passed unanimously
- 2) Approval of Meeting Minutes from Oct. 7th, 2021 (Jameson)
 - a. MOTION: Coss moved, supported by Jernberg, to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2021 meeting.
 - b. VOTE: Motion passed unanimously
- 3) EGLE Update (EGLE Staff):
 - Sampling Update: Jeni Bolt gave an update on sampling. The June 1st through September 30th monitoring period provided a few ALEs for both lead and copper. All the communities have been notified and have posted a public advisory. For lead ALEs the communities have started a public education work. If members go to MILEadsafe website all the ALEs are listed. Jameson asked which of the systems are already doing optimized corrosion control. Bolt indicated that she can provide a breakdown after the meeting. McCormack asked if these ALEs are new or if we have seen these previously. Bolt indicated that she could provide a list after the meeting indicated which is new and which had previous ALEs. Thompson asked about the sampling process and how and when individual residents get notified about the sampling results.
 - Governor Whitmer Executive Directive- Eric Oswald provided an update on the new Executive Directive. There is a required review of all the laws and rules governing drinking water, required resource review to understand how many employees and other resources are needed, requirements around lead education, material systems inventory/GIS, data collection, and regional planning. EGLE and DHHS are still in the initial phases, but hope to engage heavily with stakeholder groups. Jernberg asked specifically if stakeholders would be engaged in the rule review and Oswald indicated that they would be. There is a deadline to finish the legal review by Dec. 2022.
- 4) Benton Harbor Update (Reverend Pinkney)
 - Reverend Pinkney, President of Benton Harbor Community Water Council, gave an update on the lead contamination issues in Benton Harbor. Pinkney provided an overview of the history of uncovering the lead contamination issue in Benton Harbor and the work his group and others have done to ensure clean water is provided to residents and the lead service lines are removed. McCormack asked how the statewide council can help educate residents. Pinkney indicated that we need a real door-to-door campaign lead by community members that gets the word out.

Pinkney also indicated the importance of this council educating people on the seriousness of contaminated water. He also discussed the need to look at rates and the fact that people in Benton Harbor are paying really high rates for contaminated water that they can't drink. Pinkney also discussed the lack of trust that community members have with government and how that hampers education efforts.

5) MDHHS Response to ALEs (Tiernan)

- Jerry Tiernan provided an update for how MDHHS responds to ALEs. Tiernan indicated that the ALEs response program is geared towards identify where the problem is in the community and if it is a community wide problem. They also do sequential sampling at individual resident's homes. That sequential sampling allows DHHS to identify very specifically where the lead issue in the house- if it is a LSL, or the plumbing/fixtures in the house, or something upstream. They also coordinate filter and bottled water distribution and coordinate with local health departments.

Council took a 5 minute break at 10:37 AM

The council reconvened at 10:45 AM

6) GÜD Marketing Update and Discussion (GÜD Marketing Staff)

- GÜD Marketing staff walked through the needs assessment work plan for the project. After they put together a strategy they will move into the second phase which is the development of materials based on the research they conducted.
- Take-aways from initial interviews:
 - Materials likely won't be branded from the statewide drinking water council. The council is not a known entity and is not a good validator. Instead the materials could be branded by multiple groups. Flexibility in branding is a need.
- GÜD Marketing also discussed which stakeholders they are talking to for 1:1s and stakeholder questionnaires.
- Jameson asked if there would be compensation provided for environmental justice and community members to participate in the GÜD marketing Outreach Gud and McCormack said they would discuss that further with EGLE.
- For the development of materials the council was in agreement that having an outreach project advisory group to review materials would be good. We will discuss who we want to try to bring onto that advisory group at the next GÜD marketing meeting.

7) Other Business

- The council has a meeting scheduled in December. Zoldan asked if the council felt that we should keep that meeting on the calendar. Zoldan will send a doodle poll.

8) Public Comment:

- No public comment was offered

9) Closing Remarks (McCormack)

10) Adjourned

- a. MOTION: Jernberg moved, supported by Coss, to adjourn the meeting

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

